

**ALLAH AND HIS PROPHET (PEACE AND BLESSINGS OF
ALLAH BE ON HIM) HAVE GRANTED COMPLETE FREEDOM
IN THE PROFESSION OF BELIEF IN ISLAM
BY DECLARING *LA ILAHA ILLALLAH*
A CONSPIRACY HAS RAISED ITS HEAD IN BANGLADESH
WORDS OF SINCERE ADVICE TO THE PEOPLE
AND POLITICIANS OF BANGLADESH**

(The following is an English rendering of the Friday Sermon delivered by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV, may Allah strengthen him, on November 6, 1992, at the Fazl Mosque, London. It has been prepared by the editorial staff of the Ahmadiyya Gazette, U.S.A., on the basis of an Urdu text provided by the Private Secretary to Huzoor. It is offered at the responsibility of the staff of the Ahmadiyya Gazette, USA.)

Hazur started by reciting the creed of Islam, and seeking the protection of Allah. He then recited Surah Fatihah and the following verses of the Holy Qur'an:

قَاتَ الْأَعْرَابُ أَمَّا دُلْ تَنْوِيْهُ وَالْأَكْبَنْ
تَنْوِيْهُ أَسْلَمَتْ وَلَنَا يَدْخُلُ الْأَيْمَانَ فِي قَلْبِنَا
وَإِنْ تُطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ لَا يَتَكَبَّرُ قَوْنَاهَلَكَنْ
شَيْءٌ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَفُورٌ مَرْجِعُهُمْ @

(Al-Hujurat:15)

The Arabs of the desert say 'We believe.' Say 'You have not believed yet; but rather say, 'We have accepted Islam,' for true belief has not yet entered into your hearts.' But if you believe Allah and His Messenger, He will not detract anything from your deeds. Surely Allah is Most Forgiving, Merciful.

Then he said:

A brutal drama was staged in Pakistan in 1974. As a result of a vile conspiracy, the Assembly of Pakistan passed a resolution which is the worst resolution in the history of democratic governments. It dislodged genuine political process in Pakistan and made its politics a hostage to the *Mullahs* (bigoted and narrow minded religious leaders).

A similar conspiracy has raised its head in Bangladesh. The same actors are staging this drama; their ideas and instruments are identical to those used in Pakistan earlier. The same hands are clearly at work, displaying the same patterns of thought and cruel activities.

The process started in Bangladesh a few years ago when General Irshad assumed power. We received confirmed news at that time that the office of *Rabitai Aalimi Islami* (Muslim World Cooperation) in Kuwait invited the ministers of several countries to discuss some matters in secret. The agenda included efforts to get the Ahmadis declared as a non-Muslim minority in Bangladesh.

When I heard the news I warned the Bangladesh Jama'at and asked them to start preparing for the coming events. I told them about the far reaching implications of the conspiracy. The Saudi oil wealth is behind it; and abundance of wealth can block one's vision and make one blind. I added that since Bangladesh is a poor country, the President may possibly be lured into following the footsteps of Pakistan.

President Irshad lost power and a new government took over; but the present government has also

embarked upon similar activities. It seems, however, that the signals are now coming from the President's House of Pakistan, not from Kuwait. Pakistan's Minister of Religious Affairs appears to be fully involved in these activities.

The Prime Minister of Bangladesh recently visited Pakistan. It appears that during the visit a plan was formulated to launch the campaign which was initiated a few days ago in the Headquarters of Jama'at Ahmadiyya Bangladesh at 4 Bakhshi Bazar, Dhaka.

A few *Mullahs* attacked the Headquarters in the company of their followers, beating all who were present. Some Ahmadis remained in critical condition, but by the grace of Allah, all showed great steadfastness and we did not lose any lives. [Such lives are never lost, because those who give up this life get an ever-lasting life; but I use this phrase as a common expression. We did not lose any life; rather Allah has granted them a new phase of life to earn further blessings.]

During the attack the entire structure, which consists of several buildings, was put on fire. The furniture and valuable belongings were burned. The Holy Qur'an was desecrated. The newspapers have printed several pictures showing copies of the Holy Qur'an (Arabic text as well as those including translation in different languages) half burnt and lying in the streets.

The attack was similar to the one made in Pakistan, with one difference. The drama which was staged in Pakistan started with the events at the Rabwah railway station. Acting in accordance with a well-hatched plan, the assailants displayed very vulgar behavior at the station in an effort to excite the feelings of the youth of Rabwah into retaliating. This is what actually happened. As a result, the *Mullahs* got an excuse. Using all means of communication (Radio, T.V. as well as newspapers) they spread false and provocative rumors all over the country. They even alleged that the residents of Rabwah pulled out the eyes and chewed the livers of the assailants. I remember one Moulvi in Hazara who placed several eyes of goats in an empty vessel

and went around the market alleging that those were the eyes pulled out in Rabwah.

The government of Pakistan was fully involved in these vile activities. Using all means of communication, the citizens of Pakistan were brain washed into believing that a serious attack had been made in Rabwah upon the Muslims and had put several lives in danger. The result was inevitable. Riots started all over the country; shops and houses were burnt; and many Ahmadis earned martyrdom. The government was fully patronizing these criminal acts. We have several pictures showing that burning and looting was taking place in the presence of police officers and magistrates.

I had warned the Ahmadiyya community in Bangladesh several times to remain patient and not to play into the hands of the assailants by retaliating to their provocation. Consequently, the Ahmadis did not respond; they were inflicted with severe cruelty, but they bore it with great patience and steadfastness.

Even though the Ahmadis did not respond, the *Mullahs* all over the country have initiated demands that the Ahmadis should be declared as a non-Muslim minority, adding that if their demand is not accepted they would commence a campaign of mass killing of the Ahmadis. These demands make the nature of the conspiracy very obvious.

There is an important difference between Bangladesh and Pakistan: the politics in Bangladesh is more rational. Their thinkers are also more intelligent. Except for isolated newspapers owned by the *Mullahs*, all newspapers have condemned the events in Dhaka in very strong terms. Several important political leaders have also condemned them. As a consequence, the *Mullahs* have failed to ignite a general wave against Ahmadis, as they wished. Even if the government is involved -- and it seems clear that it is -- it has not been given an excuse to launch a campaign of provocation against Ahmadis. However, one action taken by government demonstrates its involvement. Immediately after the incident at Dhaka, it invited some of the most foul-mouthed *Mullahs* from Pakistan. They also invited

some from Mecca. Obviously, they did not get together by coincidence. The cruelties inflicted during the incidents at Dhaka followed by the invitations to the *Mullahs* proves that the government is fully involved in a conspiracy. Otherwise, no civilized nation invites evil forces from outside to promote hatred against its own citizens.

These scholars openly spread hatred against Ahmadis and, as is usual, concluded with a demand to declare Ahmadis as a non-Muslim minority. They also threatened that failure to do so would lead to a big blood-bath.

As for the blood-bath, the Jama'at Ahmadiyya Bangladesh is, by the grace of Allah, very brave. They are weak but not timid. Their faith is very strong. The Amir of Bangladesh Jama'at has written to me several times. He says that concern and heart-felt prayers is what they need, because the dangers are many. But every Ahmadi stands firm as a rock, ready to face any difficulty. Of those who had been beaten, not a single one has complained. The Amir has asked me to rest assured and to convey to Ahmadis all over the world that not a single Ahmadi in Bangladesh will turn its back; if any other incident takes place, they will all join in offering any sacrifice.

These, in brief, are the circumstances created in Bangladesh as a result of a well planned conspiracy.

Today we learned that a procession arrived the area of the Jama'at Headquarters (4 Bakhshi Bazar, Dhaka). Although no building was left intact which could have been put to fire, several sincere Ahmadis had arrived the scene, determined to offer any sacrifice. The mob therefore did not enter the buildings, but passed by -- uttering foul abuses and hurling demands of declaring Ahmadis as non-Muslims. They proceeded towards the Assembly and presented a demand that Ahmadis be declared as a non-Muslims minority. The Speaker entertained the demand. According to another report the demand had already been made and tabled by the speaker; the procession was only meant to give it

By the grace of Allah, Jama'at Ahmadiyya is a divinely established Community. The trials that have befallen the Community have caused difficulties and the Community has offered sacrifices of their feelings, honor, properties, and lives. But the Community has never retreated. Occasionally some dead leaves have fallen off, but they have been replaced by healthier, more vigorous and healthy leaves which yielded further fruit. The history of the Community shows that it is not a Community which is diminished by trials; rather, it always emerges more vigorous.

Only Allah knows what will happen next in Bangladesh, but I would like to offer some words of sincere advice to the people and politicians of Bangladesh. Whatever happens, I assure the international Ahmadiyya Muslim Community that no power on earth has the ability to humiliate or diminish the Jama'at. It will emerge with a new strength. Every trial has granted new strength to the Community; none has ever weakened it. This trial is nothing new. It is just another in the series of trials that we have passed successfully over the last one century.

Only recently, Baitul Islam mosque was inaugurated in Canada. The news from all over the world is that many non-Ahmadi were amazed at the progress of the Ahmadiyya Community. I received a letter from an Ahmadi journalist yesterday. He says that a renowned journalist who specializes in religious affairs met him in utter dismay. This renowned journalist told our Ahmadi brother that he had seen the activities of the opening of the Canada mosque in the house of an Ahmadi and had remained disturbed all night that Pakistan had committed a blunder and that Ahmadiyyat had flourished so greatly as a result. He added that what has transpired was beyond the imagination of any of them. [These are not his exact words; I have given a gist of his comments]. I also read an Ahle Hadith paper which shows that even the bitterest enemies have come to the conclusion that all their efforts have been vain. Instead of weakening the Community, they have led it to further strength.

Actually, no *Mullah* can give any strength to any one. After every one of their vile efforts, Allah grants us new strength; but they do not see it. If the general public or the intellectuals understand it, their plans of action will change. But they have a problem: if they leave us alone, we make progress; and if they persecute us, we make progress. What can they do! A saying of Hazrat Isa applies well to the Promised Messiah (peace be on them): I am the corner stone; he who falls on me will be crushed; and he upon whom I fall, will also be crushed. The Community of the Promised Messiah (Peace on Him) is that corner stone. The corner stone is selected for its hardness. I use the word 'hard' in the sense in which Allah has used it in Sura Al-Fath (verse 30):

أَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الظُّلْمِ

"... Hard against the disbelievers..."

i.e., a thing which is so strong that it breaks anything upon which it falls; and it also shatters anything which falls upon it.

If they leave us alone, they are doomed; and if they persecute us, they are doomed. What should they do? There is only one way. They should join the Jama'at with true faith. Almighty Allah has shown so many signs over the last one hundred years, that even a blind man can see that the support of Allah is with the Jama'at, not with its opponents. Otherwise, how can one understand the fact that every act of enmity against the Jama'at leads to results which are totally different from the designs of those who perpetrated those acts of enmity. However, people whom Allah has judged to have fallen astray cannot be cured. They are deaf and blind. They do not have the capacity to utter the truth. This, however, does not apply to the majority. The majority follows -- in ignorance -- the few unfortunate leaders who lack the capacity to provide true and enlightened leadership; because of their misdeeds, they lead their nation towards the path of destruction.

Such are the events which have marred the face of Pakistan. Ever since Pakistan was established, it has

gone from worse to worst under the tyranny and misguided leadership of the *Maulvis*.

I advise the Bangladeshis to take a close look at the recent history of religion. What is the evidence provided by the one hundred years of the history of Ahmadiyyat? It is not something belonging to antiquity. Living history is unfolding right before your eyes; take heed from it. People of Bangladesh should closely scrutinize the events in Pakistan, and learn a lesson. If the present Prime Minister is involved in recent events -- and I believe she is involved -- she should ponder over the decree of Allah against those who committed similar acts in past. The *Mullahs* come and tell her: 'If you join us, you will earn ever lasting fame; your opponents would be crushed; your political opponents would lose power; you will also get spiritual recognition. . . etc'. Can the Prime Minister not see that hands that promise her garlands are fully capable of putting rope around her neck to hang her. These hands are not to be trusted!

This is not ancient history. The fate of those who fell prey to the schemes of the *Maulvis* is current history. You have seen their demise. Punishment that was meted to them is fully in line with the decree of Allah. Allah says:

فَلَمْ يَجِدْ يُشَتَّتَ اللَّهُوَنِيَّلَادَرَنِيَّدَ
يُشَتَّتَ اللَّهُوَنِيَّلَادَرَنِيَّدَ

(Fatir:44)

...But thou wilt never find any change in the way of
Allah; nor wilt thou ever find alteration in the way of
Allah.

The decree of Allah manifests itself in this manner again and again. So open your eyes, and be vigilant. If mistakes have been made in the past, there is still time to repent and seek forgiveness of Allah. Do not wilfully adopt the path of viciousness; for it will surely lead you where all cruel tyrants reach by the decree of Allah. The nation will also suffer. The decisions made by leaders affect the destiny of their nations. Ill advised decision bring such hardship and

misery upon the nation that it finds no escape from it.

Pay heed to the lesson offered by Pakistan! A claim was made that by declaring Ahmadis to be non-Muslim an unparalleled service had been rendered to the cause of Islam. It was claimed that those who had led this activity would be the recipients of ever lasting divine bliss; Allah would be pleased with them; their hymns would be sung in heaven; Islam would march forward to victory. Such were the rosy pictures; what has actually transpired is very dreadful. I will offer two glimpses of it, so that those in Bangladesh who are listening or to whom my message reaches later should understand it well. What was the result of the events that happened in Pakistan in 1974, or of the cruelties which were perpetrated as a direct result of these events in 1984. Mr. A.K. Brohi, former Law Minister of Pakistan, may be paraphrased as following: 'A tree is known by its fruit. The world forms its opinion about Islam by seeing us. I think if we renounce Islam, the entire Europe can accept Islam.' i.e., If you want to serve Islam, join the Islam from which you have severed yourselves. That is the Islam which is attracting the Europeans. Repent from the so-called Islam of cruelty and injustice. Such is not the Islam of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). It is impossible that the true faith of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) should repel people. Nor is it possible that if Muslims forsake that true faith, others would be attracted to the distorted version and find protection in it.

Mr. Brohi is not an Ahmadi; indeed he was raised under the banner of Jama'at Islami, and has always supported Jama'at Islami openly. But as a renowned jurist, he has drawn a rational conclusion based upon his observation. A paraphrase of his fuller observation follows: 'A tree is known by its fruit. The world forms its opinion about Islam by seeing us. I think if we renounce Islam, the entire Europe can accept Islam. When they see the people who wear the label of Islamic Nations, their steps towards Islam falter. We are the biggest obstacle to

the propagation of Islam.' (quoted in *Islam aur asri ravan*, by Dr. Ghulam Jailani Burk, p. 176 from Mulaqateen by Altaf Husain, p. 50).

Syed Qaiser Shirazi offers another commentary on what is happening in Pakistan: 'I reflect upon every second and micro-second of the current year. I feel fire burning around me. Gun smoke has spread everywhere. Bombs are exploding. Sound of human travails is deafening. Bullets are being fired; fighting and rowdyism holds sway. . . In this atmosphere of fear and insecurity, the citizens are sitting dreadfully scared and astounded. Oh my Allah! what is this? Is this not the Doomsday? The wrath of God has surely been inflicted.'

Was it Islam that was served in Pakistan? Was it really God Whom they served. They certainly did not serve the God of Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). He is the One Who rewards minor offerings with marvelous bounties. Some who offered a piece of bread, were so blessed that several of their generations reaped the rewards. Some who sacrificed their honor, were so blessed that from the status of shepherds they moved on to become powerful rulers. Such is Allah; and this is how blesses those who make sacrifices for His sake. He deals with them with love and kindness.

If the action done by Pakistan had been right, Allah would not have treated them as He has. They claim that they are serving God, but God punishes and humiliates them! Such is not the way of Allah. What kind of God are they serving. If they are right -- and they certainly are not -- Allah would not have treated them as they have been treated. The entire nation has been humiliated and profaned; it is crying and moaning at the wrath of Allah, and cannot find an escape. The 'Islamic Republic' has turned into a 'land of robbers and child snatchers'. The honor of innocent women is profaned. Those who have been appointed to maintain the law have turned into the worst law breakers and supporters of criminals. What is happening in Pakistan is so evident that the darkness of the darkest night

cannot match it, and not a single one of its inhabitants has remained silent.

What service have you performed for faith in Pakistan for which you have earned this reward? Ever since 1974, Pakistan has not seen peace and security.

I therefore humbly advise the honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh and its intellectuals that they should not repeat the cruel and foolish behavior which would engulf the country like a dark night. You will then find no escape. Bangladesh is a very poor country. It has suffered many a calamity. There is acute shortage of food and clothing. If, on top of this, you earn the wrath of God, you will be committing a grave stupidity. History will never condone such a stupid act.

The *Mullahs* tell you that action against Ahmadis is a service to Islam because -- God forbid -- someone has usurped the prophethood and *khatimiyyat* (seal of prophethood) of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). What the *Mullahs* say is nonsense and desecration against the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). There is none who can usurp the prophethood or honor of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). If any one dares such a venture, the decree of God would totally annihilate him. So, what the *Mullahs* say is an empty slogan -- all falsehood without any trace of truth. But ignorant people and even politicians are influenced by these slogans.

Usurpation? Let me ask you this: A majority of the world population are idol worshippers, or have given the prophets of God the status of God. To use the phrase of the *Mullahs*, such people have usurped Godhood. But the *Mullahs* feel no pain. What is happening in India is no concern to them. The countries where Muslims are being tortured do not disturb their mind. If they really wanted to participate in *Jihad* they should have marched forward in Kashmir to earn martyrdom. They stayed behind when death confronted them; but they roar

like lions when faced with weak and helpless people. I remember two events of 1974. Several *Mullahs*, accompanied by a large crowd, attacked a village in Gujranwala. When they were about to attack the Ahmadis, they were told that Ahmadis were fully prepared to defend themselves and determined to kill ten for each one of the loss of their lives. Someone asked a *Mullah* to take the leadership, but they started making excuses. When the mob saw the situation, people dispersed saying that if the *Mullahs* were not prepared to be in the forefront to offer their lives, they also did not want to die.

If the governments want to test the sincerity of the *Mullahs*, they should send them where the biggest difficulties arise. Send them in areas where Muslims are being tortured. The land of Bosnia is calling for martyrs. As I announced earlier, Muslim countries would be justified in declaring a *Jihad* in Bosnia, although this does not apply to Muslims living in non-Muslim countries. Turkey and Pakistan can declare *Jihad*; and if they do so, Ahmadis will Insha'Allah be in the forefront. But since they do not consider Ahmadis to be Muslims, they would perhaps not like to avail of their services. So why not send the *Mullahs* to Bosnia? From Bangladesh as well as from Pakistan, collect the *Mullahs* into a force to fight in Bosnia. There is also news that the Muslims are being forced to flee from Burma into Bangladesh. Here is another opportunity for the *Mullahs* in Bangladesh to open a front. But they, instead, only want to attack Ahmadis, who do not have the resources to defend themselves. Ahmadis are passing through a period of victimization and weakness. But they are not afraid of their weakness or helplessness. You can try to kill them or burn their homes -- as you have done before -- but they will remain brave and fearless. But those in Bangladesh who want to earn martyrdom should open the Burma front. The government of Bangladesh has a good opportunity. There are hundreds of thousands of *Mullahs* and their followers who can go to cleanse the politics and bring peace.

Please refrain from foolish ventures and try to see the reality.

No one can attack the prophethood of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) upto the Day of Judgement. The claim of the Promised Messiah is a claim of service -- a loving and devoted service. In an Urdu couplet he says:

وہ نہیں جو کل اپنے اس خیالی می ہے
سبھ نہیں علیاً شاہد ہے تر خدا ہے
وہ جس نے حق دکھانے والے میں سے ہے

He is all, I am nothing;
That is the decision.
You are Witness oh Allah, that we found
everything through him;
He it is who showed us the illumined face
of the Truthful God.

Read the writings of the Promised Messiah. How truthful is his devotion! What he has written in devotion to the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in Arabic, Urdu and Persian, is unparalleled in the Islamic world. Be careful whom you are accusing of being a non-believer. His only claim is that he is the Mahdi about whom the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) had prophesied. The one whose truthfulness was witnessed by the Sun and Moon. He claims to be the Messiah who was destined to initiate a universal campaign against Christianity.

As for prophethood, the Ahmadiyya Community believes that the status of Mahdi and Messiah is that of "Ghulami Nabuwat" i. e., prophethood in complete submission and subservience, which is mentioned in the Holy Qur'an. The Promised Messiah never claimed to be the recipient of an independent prophethood free from the subservience of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) or bringing a new law. Indeed, he cursed such claimants and stated that they have nothing to do with Islam.

In short the claim of the Promised Messiah is that

of being a Messiah and Mahdi. We prove -- both with logic and with supporting references -- that the Messiah and the Mahdi who was to appear among Muslims was destined to have the status of prophethood subordinate to the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). A prophet free from the subordination of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) cannot come and no such claim has been made. As for the *Ummati Nabi* (Prophet within the followers of Islam), its continuation is testified by the Holy Quran in the following verse:

وَمَنْ يُطِعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَأُولَئِكَ مَعَ الْإِنْسَانِ الْمُحْسَنِ
اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ قَبْرُ النَّبِيِّنَ وَالْقَبْرُ بَيْنَ النَّبِيِّنَ وَالشَّهِيدَيْنَ
وَالصَّالِحِيْجِينَ وَحَسْنَ أُولَئِكَ رَفِيقًا^{۴۰}
(4:70)

And whoso obeys Allah and this Messenger shall be among those on whom Allah has bestowed His blessings – the Prophets, the Truthful, the Martyrs, and the Righteous. And an excellent company are they.

What an open declaration! The verse of *Khatamunnabiyyeen* is certainly true. The Promised Messiah (peace on him) has declared on oath that we have complete faith in that verse. Indeed, the depth of understanding we have of the verse is not even approached in part by our opponents. No verse can contradict it. If you read that verse in the light of the verse quoted above, the meaning becomes crystal clear. It is announced here that all prophethood is closed except the prophethood of subordination. Prophethood in the subservience to the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) will continue; it will only be granted to his true servants. "*Whoso obeys Allah and this Messenger . . .*" is announced clearly. A person who obeys the Holy Prophet even today will be the one who will reap the reward. Not only prophethood, but all kinds of spiritual blessings -- the Prophethood, the Truthfulness, the Martyrdom, and the Righteousness-- What an . . ."excellent company" for the Muslims. But there is one condition:

obedience and complete subservience to the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). The greater rank you achieve in obedience to him, the greater will be the spiritual reward.

The claim of the Promised Messiah (peace on him) -- that he has achieved everything in complete submission to the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) -- cannot be called independent prophethood (which has been closed.)

What will be the answer of the *Mullahs* when they face God. Actually God does not wait until then; to those who distort the verses of God for their own vile ends, punishment is given in this very world. The recent history to which I have referred stands witness that -- notwithstanding the punishment in the hereafter -- God will not spare such people even in this world. They will receive punishment after punishment.

I advise the leaders of Bangladesh to take heed. Be forewarned and do not throw your nation into this pit of indignity. Those who fall into it, do not reappear.

Religious matters are not amenable to political decision-making. No politician has a right to say what someone else really believes. It is utter foolishness for the state to assume the right of someone belonging to a certain faith or to declare that not assuming such right will result in bloodshed. Whatever blood is shed, would be the blood of a Bengali. The leaders would be accountable for every drop of that blood. Every citizen has a right to be treated with justice irrespective of his creed. The blood of a victim is above the distinctions of creed or color. It is above else the blood of a victim. May Allah grant you understanding.

It is not the function of the political process to interfere in religious affairs outside the political domain -- especially relating to matters in which Allah has forbidden interference. The world of politics is separate and distinct from religion.

The *Mullahs* claim that Ahmadis are non-Muslims.

The history of fourteen hundred years bears witness that *Mullahs* have spent their lives in declaring each other as non-Muslims. Their accusations have been shocking and their declaration of apostasy have been grim. They have gone as far as saying that not only the people belonging to a sect were non-Muslims and doomed to go to hell, but also anyone who doubted such a verdict would face the same fate. All these decrees have been published. I have asked the Bangladesh Jama'at to print these verdict immediately. They should tell all Bengalis about the history of the *Mullah*. At the time that Ahmadiyyat had not even appeared, what were their verdicts about each other.

Why do you destroy your political process by following the *Mullahs*? There is a conspiracy against Bangladesh as there was a conspiracy against Pakistan. Ahmadis, despite being mistreated, are under the protection of God; but the politicians have no guarantee of such Divine protection. When politicians make errors, the results of such errors haunt the rest of their lives. In Pakistan's, the political process is now totally shaken and powerless. There is only one solution: to repent and nullify the wrong decisions.

Not to speak of politics, even the founders of religions have been granted by God the right to judge someone else's faith. If such a right was to be granted to anyone, the Holy Prophet was entitled to it. But during his entire life there is not a single event of his declaring someone to be a non-Muslim in contradiction to the professed belief of the person concerned. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) possessed perfect wisdom. The light of the Sun bears no match to the light of his wisdom and insight. The Majesty and Grace of God descended upon the earth in the form of a living Muhammad to give birth to Islam. His insight and wisdom was incomparable and he could never err in matters of faith. However, Almighty Allah Himself directed him: "The Arabs of the desert say that they have believed"; but tell them, i.e., Allah is informing you to say that, 'you have not believed. But you are entitled to call yourselves Muslims.' Even when faith had not entered their

hearts, they were given the right to call themselves Muslim. Not even the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was given the right to deprive any one from calling himself a Muslim.

This verse makes the whole matter very clear. We see a phenomenon of light upon light. Even before the revelation of this verse the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) did not declare anybody to be non-Muslim contrary to his own professed belief. After the revelation of this verse, it was absolutely impossible. If the *Mullahs* of today make that claim, they only announce their own degradation and depravity. They make a claim which exceeds that of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Anyone who does that is bound to be declared as rejected one in the sight of Allah.

Why do you want to destroy your own destiny by following these rejected ones? God has not given them a right, but they arrogate it to themselves. They invite you to partake of that stolen property. I advise you not to continue on the mistaken path and to repent.

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) has not even permitted anyone to judge whether another person has faith in his heart, because only Allah knows the secrets of the heart. I will close this sermon by narrating an event from the life of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Ahmadis know it well, but it should be explained to the non-Ahmadi scholars in Bangladesh so that they can decide whether they want to follow the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) or the *Mullahs*. A well known warrior once encountered a Muslim in battle. The Muslim overpowered him after a great difficulty. As he was about to kill him, the warrior recited *La ilaha illallah* (There is none worthy of worship, except Allah). He did not even say *Muhammadur Rasoolullah* (Muhammad is the apostle of God). [Their claim about belief in prophethood -- and in *khatimiyyat* as a part of that belief -- are the creation of their own imagination. The hadith makes it clear that the man only uttered

La ilaha illallah.] Yet the Muslim killed him and came to inform the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) about the incident. He narrates that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was so angry that he has never seen him so angry in his life. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) continued repeating "Did you open his heart to see if there was faith in his heart." The Holy Prophet kept repeating this phrase until the Muslim wished that he would stop doing so. Another tradition is that the Muslim wished that he had not been a Muslim before that time. In still another tradition it is narrated that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) asked him: "What will be your answer when uttering of *La Ilaha Illallah* appears as a witness against you on the Day of Judgement."

Ahmadi recite *La ilaha Illallah Muhammadur Rasoolullah*. This kalimah is the essence of their lives. They have offered their lives and properties for the sake of this Kalimah. The streets of Pakistan bear witness that Ahmadis do not care for their lives in order to protect the Kalimah. They were put behind bars; they were beaten and dragged in the streets; they were dishonored; their properties were looted and their houses were burned; but they did not budge an inch from the protection of the Kalima. Yet you claim they are not Muslims. This is totally devoid of reason.

I trust the judgement of the politicians of Bangladesh. They are wiser than the Pakistani politicians. I have travelled a great deal in Bengal. My experience is that they are more open minded. If you talk to them with rationally, they do not take an unreasonable attitude. It is therefore important to reason with them and to warn them about this conspiracy. Otherwise they will gain neither in this world nor in the hereafter. No one has the power to fight *La ilaha illallah*. When the souls of every Ahmadi cry *La ilaha illallah Muhammadur Rasoolullah* on the day of judgement, what would be your answer? What justification will you offer for depriving them of their lives, properties and honor?

What will be your rationale for declaring them to be non-Muslims? May Allah grant you wisdom. May the people of Bangladesh be saved from the fate that has overtaken Pakistan. The incidents have passed, but the punishment has clung to Pakistan as a living reality from which it finds no escape.